

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

GISEL E. DILONE-DIAZ,
Defendant.

CRIMINAL NO. 25- 121 (SCL)



PLEA AND FORFEITURE AGREEMENT

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

The United States of America, Defendant, Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz, and Defendant's counsel, Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, state that they have reached a Plea Agreement, the terms and conditions of which are as follows:

1. Charges to which Defendant will Plead Guilty

Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One of the Information:

Count One: From on or about May 12, 2021 through on or about May 25, 2021, in the District of Puerto Rico, the defendant, **GISEL E. DILONE-DIAZ**, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, to wit, the theft of government funds in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641 using fraudulent Economic Impact Payment applications, did conceal the same by withdrawing, conveying, and disposing of the proceeds deposited in her bank account, and did not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 4.

2. Maximum Penalties

Count One: The maximum statutory penalty for the offense charged in Count One of the Information, is a term of imprisonment of not more than three years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4; a fine not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(3); and a supervised release term of not more than one year, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(b)(3).

3. Sentencing Guidelines Applicability

Defendant understands that the sentence will be imposed by the Court in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-86, and the United States Sentencing Guidelines (hereinafter "Guidelines"), which are advisory pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). Further, Defendant acknowledges that parole has been abolished, and that the imposition of Defendant's sentence may not be suspended.

4. Special Monetary Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay a special monetary assessment ("SMA") of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per count of conviction. The SMA will be deposited in the Crime Victim Fund, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013 (a)(2)(A).

5. Fines and Restitution

The Court may, pursuant to Section 5E1.2 of the Guidelines order Defendant to pay a fine. The Court may also impose restitution. Defendant agrees to a

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

restitution of \$46,600 to be paid to the Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury (Departamento de Hacienda). Furthermore, Defendant agrees to execute and make available, prior to sentencing, a standardized financial statement (OBD Form 500). The United States will advocate on behalf of any identified victim, and comply with its obligations under the Mandatory Victim Restitution Act of 1996.

G. E. D.

The defendant agrees not to sell, transfer, loan, assign, dispose, remove, conceal, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any property or asset worth more than \$5,000 before sentencing and before satisfaction of any fine or restitution imposed, without the prior written approval of the United States. The defendant agrees to notify the United States in writing of any interest in any property or asset which is valued at more than \$5,000 that the defendant may obtain, directly or indirectly, after execution of the Plea Agreement until the fine or restitution is paid in full. The defendant understands and agrees that defendant's failure to comply with this provision of the Plea Agreement shall be considered a material breach of the Plea Agreement.

6. Sentence to be Determined by the Court

Defendant understands that the sentence to be imposed will be determined solely by the United States District Judge. The United States cannot make and has not made any promise or representation as to what sentence Defendant will receive. Any discussions that the parties might have had about possible sentences are not binding in any way on the Court, and do not constitute representations about what the parties will seek, or what the actual sentence will be.

7. Recommended Sentencing Guidelines Calculations

After due consideration of the relevant factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the United States and Defendant submit that the advisory Guidelines calculations listed below apply to Defendant. However, Defendant acknowledges that the Court is not required to accept those recommended Guidelines calculations.

SENTENCING GUIDELINES CALCULATIONS COUNT ONE 18 U.S.C. § 4	
Base Offense Level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2X4.1	4
Acceptance of Responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1	-2
First Time Offender pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4C1.1	-2
TOTAL ADJUSTED OFFENSE LEVEL	0

8. Sentence Recommendation

As to Count One, and after due consideration of the relevant factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the parties agree that the parties will request a sentence of probation, with the specific conditions to be determined by the Court.

The parties agree that any recommendation by either party for a term of imprisonment below or above the stipulated sentence recommendation will constitute a material breach of the Plea Agreement.

9. No Stipulation as to Criminal History Category

The parties do not stipulate as to any Criminal History Category for Defendant.

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

10. Waiver of Appeal

Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees that, if the sentence imposed by the Court is probation, Defendant waives the right to appeal any aspect of this case's judgment and sentence, including, but not limited to the term of imprisonment or probation, restitution, fines, forfeiture, and the term and conditions of supervised release.

11. No Further Adjustments or Departures

The United States and Defendant agree that no further adjustments or departures to Defendant's total adjusted base offense level and no variant sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3553—other than any explicitly provided for in this Plea Agreement—shall be sought by Defendant. The parties agree that any request by Defendant for an adjustment or departure that is not explicitly provided for in this Plea Agreement will be considered a material breach of this Plea Agreement, and the United States will be free to ask for any sentence, either guideline or statutory.

12. Satisfaction with Counsel

Defendant is satisfied with counsel, Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez, and asserts that counsel has rendered effective legal assistance.

13. Rights Surrendered by Defendant Through Guilty Plea

Defendant understands that by entering into this Plea Agreement, Defendant surrenders and waives certain rights as detailed in this agreement. Defendant understands that the rights of criminal defendants include the following:

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

- 6.3.D.D.
- a. If Defendant had persisted in a plea of not guilty to the charges, Defendant would have had the right to a speedy jury trial with the assistance of counsel. The trial may be conducted by a judge sitting without a jury if Defendant, the United States and the judge agree.
 - b. If a jury trial is conducted, the jury would be composed of twelve lay persons selected at random. Defendant and Defendant's attorney would assist in selecting the jurors by removing prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges. The jury would have to agree, unanimously, before it could return a verdict of either guilty or not guilty. The jury would be instructed that Defendant is presumed innocent, that it could not convict Defendant unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and that it was to consider each charge separately.
 - c. If a trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and, after hearing all the evidence and considering each count separately, determine whether or not the evidence established Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - d. At a trial, the United States would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against Defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those witnesses and Defendant's attorney would be able to cross-examine them. In turn, Defendant could present witnesses and other evidence on Defendant's own behalf. If the witnesses for Defendant would not appear voluntarily, Defendant could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court.
 - e. At a trial, Defendant could rely on the privilege against self-incrimination to decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from Defendant's refusal to testify. If Defendant desired to do so, Defendant could testify on Defendant's own behalf.

14. Stipulation of Facts

The accompanying Stipulation of Facts signed by Defendant is hereby incorporated into this Plea Agreement. Defendant adopts the Stipulation of Facts and agrees that the facts therein are accurate in every respect. Defendant agrees and

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

accepts that had the matter proceeded to trial, the United States would have proven those facts beyond a reasonable doubt.

15. Limitations of Plea Agreement

This Plea Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico and Defendant. It does not bind any other federal district, state, or local authorities.

16. Entirety of Plea Agreement

This written agreement constitutes the complete Plea Agreement between the United States, Defendant, and Defendant's counsel. The United States has made no promises or representations except as set forth in writing in this Plea Agreement and denies the existence of any other terms and conditions not stated herein.

17. Amendments to Plea Agreement

No other promises, terms or conditions will be entered into between the parties unless they are in writing and signed by all parties.

18. Voluntariness of Plea Agreement

Defendant acknowledges that no threats have been made against Defendant and that Defendant is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because Defendant is guilty.

19. Breach and Waiver

Defendant agrees that defendant will have breached this Plea Agreement if, after entering into this Plea Agreement, Defendant: (a) fails to perform or to fulfill

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

completely each and every one of Defendant's obligations under this Plea Agreement; (b) fails to comply with his conditions of release pending sentence; (c) engages in any criminal activity prior to sentencing; or (d) attempts to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea. In the event of such a breach, the United States will be free from its obligation under this Plea Agreement and Defendant will not have the right to withdraw the guilty plea. Moreover, Defendant agrees that if Defendant is in breach of the Plea Agreement, Defendant is deemed to have waived any objection to the reinstatement of any charges under the Indictment, Information, or complaint which may have previously been dismissed or which may have not been previously prosecuted.

20. Felony Conviction

Defendant hereby agrees and recognizes that the plea of guilty in this case will be recognized as a felony conviction, which will result in the loss of certain rights, including but not limited to the right to vote in a federal election, to serve as a juror, to hold public office, and to lawfully possess a firearm.


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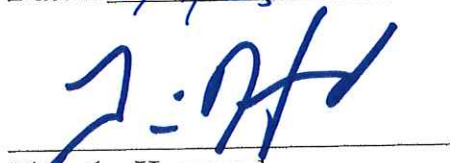
US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,


21. Dismissal of Remaining Counts

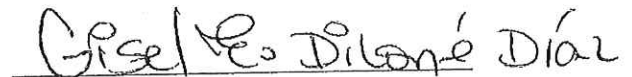
At sentencing should the Defendant comply with the terms of this Plea Agreement, the United States will move to dismiss the remaining counts of the Indictment in CR. 23-455(SCC) pending against Defendant.

W. STEPHEN MULDROW
United States Attorney


Seth Erbe
Assistant US Attorney
Chief, Financial Fraud and
Public Corruption Section
Dated: 3/11/25


Timothy Henwood
Assistant US Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division
Dated: 3-11-25


Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez
Counsel for Defendant
Dated: 2/28/2025


Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz
Defendant
Dated: 2/28/2025

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

UNDERSTANDING OF RIGHTS

I have consulted with counsel and fully understand all of my rights as to the charges pending against me. Further, I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand my rights as to the provisions of the Guidelines that may apply in my case. I have read this Plea Agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. My counsel has translated the Plea Agreement to me in the Spanish language and I have no doubts as to the contents of the agreement. I fully understand this agreement and voluntarily agree to it.

Date: 2/28/2025

Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz
Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz
Defendant

I am the attorney for Defendant. I have fully explained Defendant's rights to Defendant with respect to the pending charges. Further, I have reviewed the applicable provisions of the Guidelines and I have fully explained to Defendant the provisions of those Guidelines that may apply in this case. I have carefully reviewed every part of this Plea Agreement with Defendant. I have translated the Plea Agreement and explained it in the Spanish language to the Defendant who has expressed having no doubts as to the contents of the agreement. To my knowledge, Defendant is entering into this Plea Agreement voluntarily, intelligently, and with full knowledge of all consequences of Defendant's plea of guilty.

Date: 2/28/2025

Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez
Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez
Counsel for Defendant

US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

STIPULATION OF FACTS

In conjunction with the submission of the accompanying Plea Agreement in this case, Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz admits that she is guilty as charged in Count One of the Information and admits the following:

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Federal government provided three rounds of economic-impact payments (EIPs) to eligible individuals in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury (PRDT), as the local administrator, was in charge of distributing the federal EIPs to eligible individuals as required by federal regulation.

From on or about May 12, 2021 through on or about May 25, 2021, in the District of Puerto Rico, the defendant, **GISEL E. DILONE-DIAZ**, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, to wit, the theft of government funds in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641 using fraudulent Economic Impact Payment applications, did conceal the same by withdrawing, conveying, and disposing of the proceeds deposited in her bank account, and did not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 4.


From on or about May 12, 2021, through on or about May 25, 2021, Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz received in her Banco Popular de Puerto Rico (BPPR) account multiple-federal EIPs that were meant for other persons. Namely, the applications for the EIPs contained the names and personal-identifying information (including the social security number) that did not belong to Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz, but the information for

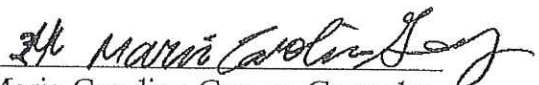
US v. Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz,

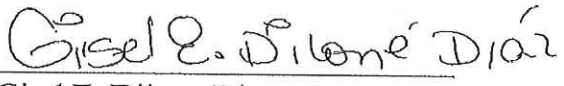
where the PRDT would send the money had the name and bank-account information of Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz. Hence, Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz received EIPs meant for others and then spent the money.

Had this matter proceeded to trial, the United States would have presented evidence through the testimony of witnesses as well as physical evidence and documentary evidence, which would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt Defendant's guilt.

At trial, the United States would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz is guilty as charged in Count One of the Information. Discovery was timely made available to Defendant for review.


Seth A. Erbe
Assistant US Attorney
Dated: 3/11/25


Maria Carolina Gomez-Gonzalez
Counsel for Defendant
Dated: 2/28/2025


Gisel E. Dilone-Diaz
Defendant
Dated: 2/28/2025